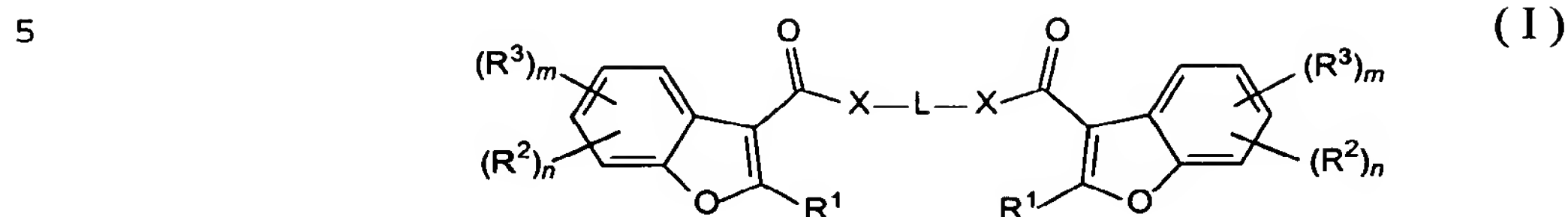


CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A compound of the formula I



wherein

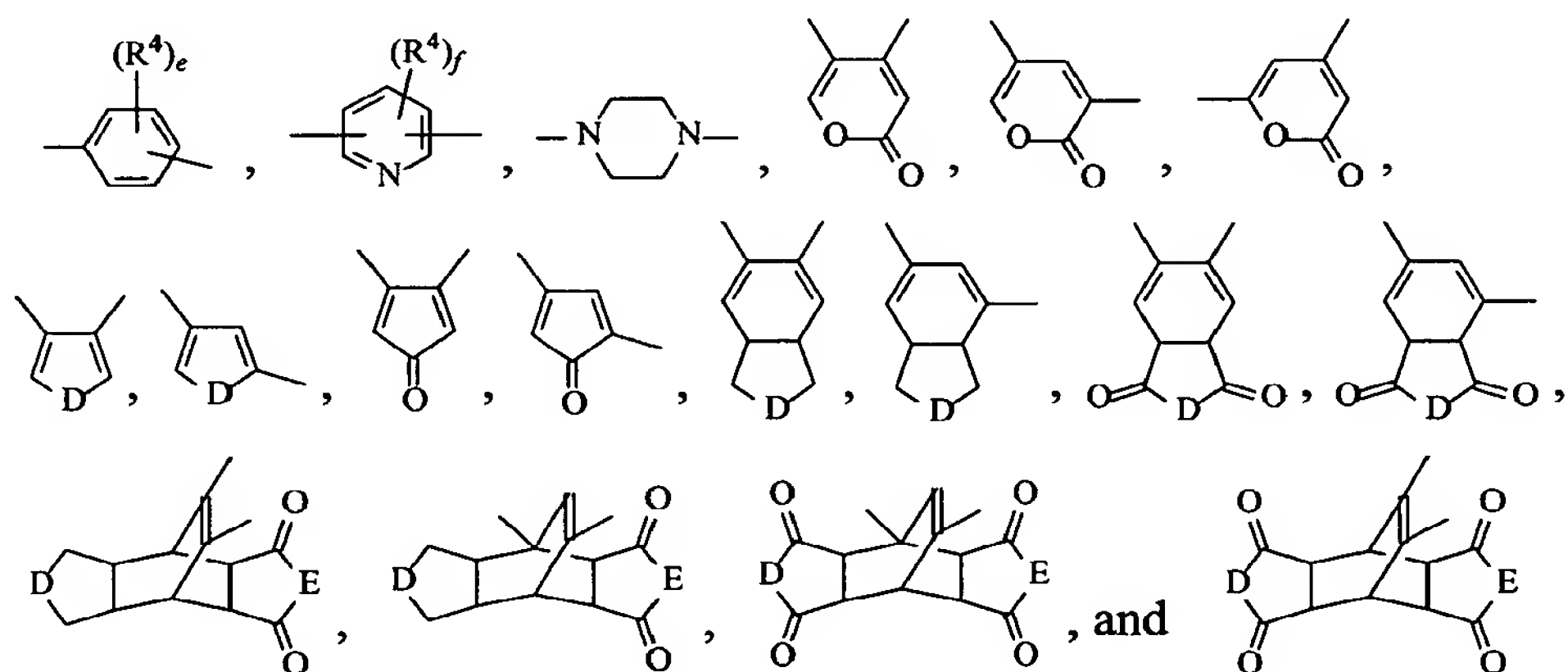
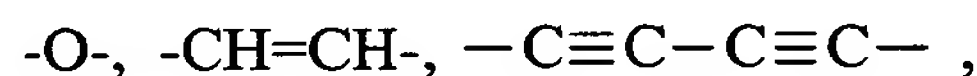
L is selected from $-(CH_2)_a-$, and a group of the formula



wherein a is selected from 2-20,

10 B is $-(CH_2)_b-$, $-(CH_2)_c-O-(CH_2)_d-$, or $-(CH_2)_c-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-(CH_2)_d-$, and

A is selected from a group of the formula



wherein R^4 is selected from halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, NO_2 , and $-NRR$,

D and E are independently selected from O, S, Se, CRR and NR,

b is selected from 1-10,

20 c is selected from 1-8,

d is selected from 1-8,

e is selected from 0-4;

f is selected from 0-3, and

R is selected from H, lower alkyl, aralkyl and aryl;

X is selected from O, or -NH-;

R¹ is selected from

a C₁-C₂₀ alkyl which may be unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents selected from CN, halogen, lower alkoxy, thio-lower alkyl, nitro, phosphinos, phosphates, and protected amino;

a C₁-C₂₀ alkenyl which may be unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents selected from CN, halogen, lower alkoxy, thio-lower alkyl, nitro, phosphinos, phosphates, and protected amino;

an aromatic group which may be unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents

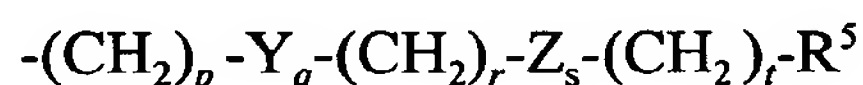
selected from halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, thio-lower alkyl, nitro, phosphinos, phosphates, and protected amino; and

an aralkyl which may be unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents selected

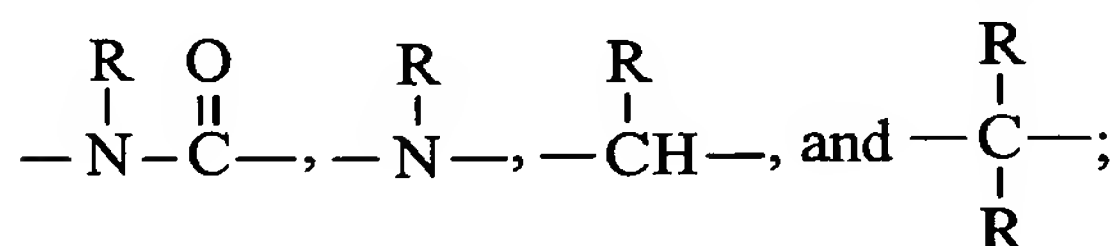
from halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, thio-lower alkyl, nitro, phosphinos, phosphates, and protected amino;

R² is selected from halogen, hydroxy, CN, nitro, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, thio-lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, cycloalkyl, C₂-C₈ acyl, lower alkyl ester, and lower alkyl amide;

R³ is a group of the formula



wherein Y and Z are independently selected from O, S, -OCH₂CH₂O-, $\text{—}\overset{\text{O}}{\parallel}\text{C—}$, $\text{—}\overset{\text{O}}{\parallel}\text{C—O—}$,



p, *r* and *t* are independently selected from values from 0 to 10;

q and *s* are independently selected from 0 and 1, provided that when *t*=0 then *s*=0, and when *r*=0 then *q*=0; and

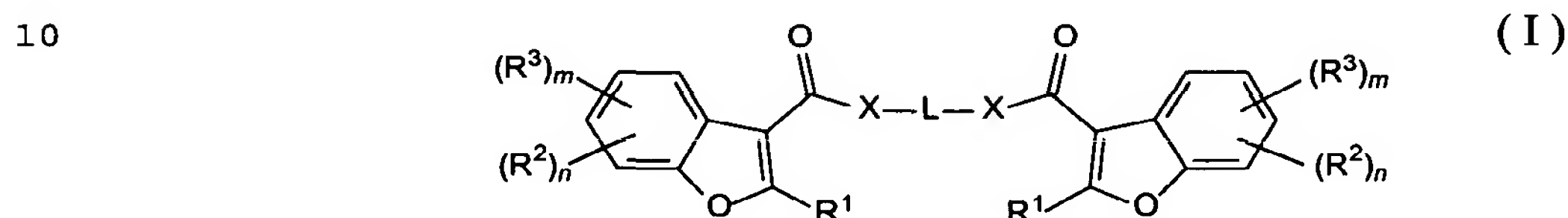
R⁵ is selected from OH, CO₂H, $\text{—}\overset{\text{O}}{\parallel}\text{NHC—}$, and $\text{—}\overset{\text{O}}{\parallel}\text{NHC—CH}_2\text{OH}$;

n is selected from 0-4, and

m is 0 or 1, with the proviso that the sum of n plus m does not exceed 4.

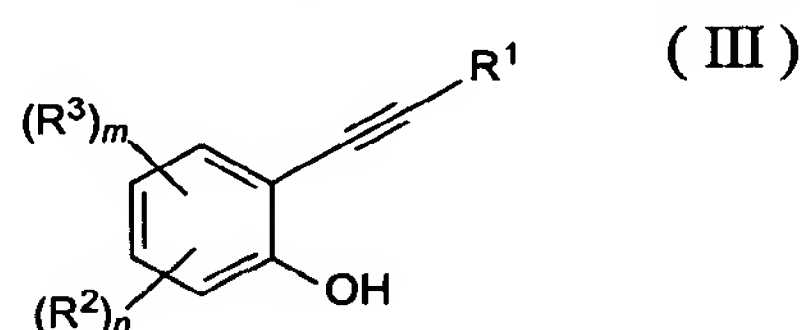
- 5 2. A compound of the claim 1, wherein A is selected from a group of the formula
-O-, -CH=CH-, and $-C\equiv C-C\equiv C-$.

3. A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula I

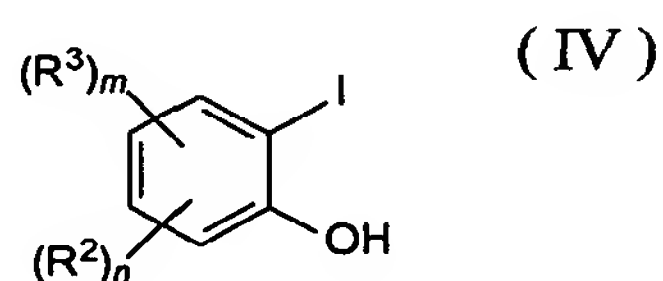


comprising the steps of

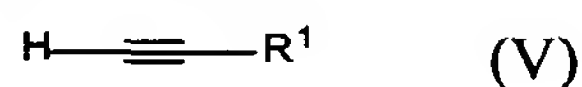
- (a) a Sonogashira reaction to prepare a compound of the formula III



- 15 by reacting a compound of the formula IV

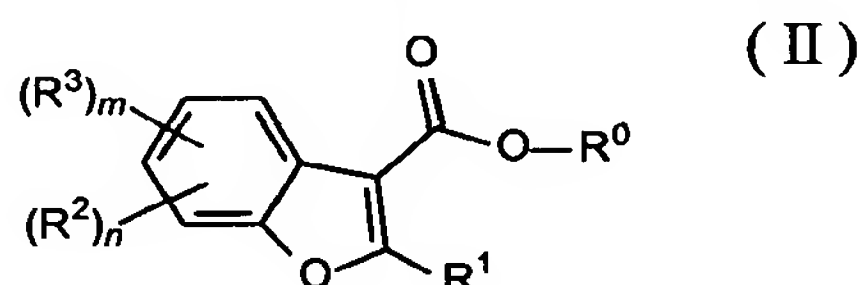


with a terminal alkyne represented by the formula V:



- 20 in the presence of base and a transition metal catalyst;

- (b) carbonylative annulation to give a compound of the formula II



by treating a compound of the formula III with an alcohol of the formula R^0 -OH in the presence of a transition metal catalyst, carbon monoxide and a base, wherein R^0 is lower alkyl, aralkyl, or aryl, wherein the lower alkyl, aralkyl, or aryl, may be optionally substituted with one or more halogen, CN and nitro, or R^0 is selected from a group of the

5 formula

-L-OH, and -B-A',

wherein L and B are as described above for a compound of the formula I, and A' is $-CH=CH_2$ or $-C\equiv CH$; and

10 (c) coupling two molecules of the formula II to give a compound of the formula I,

wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , X, L, n and m are as described in claim 1 for the compound of the formula I.